

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mixing console apparatus comprising:
an input section that inputs a plurality of electric signals;
a processing section that processes the inputted electric signals;
an output section that outputs the processed electric signals; and
a plurality of operators being provided in correspondence to a plurality of circuit components contained in those of the input section, the processing section and the output section, and being assigned with various functions in correspondence to the respective circuit components, the plurality of operators being manually operable to act on the corresponding circuit components for controlling the electric signals, said plurality of operators being divided into groups and subgroups,

wherein the plurality of the operators are arranged to form at least one group operation section such that the operators having similar functions are grouped into the same group operation section, and

wherein the group operation section is divided into subgroups with color markings such that operators belonging to one subgroup is distinguished from operators belonging to another subgroup by the respective color markings.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 2, wherein different colors are allocated to different subgroups to distinguish from each other.

Claim 4 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the different colors are allocated in the order determined by brightness thereof to the different subgroups.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A mixing console apparatus comprising:
an input section that inputs a plurality of electric signals;
a processing section that processes the inputted electric signals;
an output section that outputs the processed electric signals; and
a plurality of operators being provided in correspondence to a plurality of circuit components contained in those of the input section, the processing section and the output section, and being assigned with various functions in correspondence to the respective circuit components, the plurality of operators being manually operable to act on the corresponding circuit components for controlling the electric signals, said plurality of operators being divided into groups and subgroups,

wherein the plurality of the operators are grouped to form two or more of group operation sections such that operators having similar functions are grouped into the same group operation section, wherein each group operation section is divided into subgroups with color markings from a top subgroup to a last subgroup such that operators belonging to one subgroup is distinguished from operators belonging to another subgroup by the respective color markings, and

wherein the respective top subgroups of the respective group operation sections are applied with the same marking.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 6, wherein different colors are allocated to different subgroups to distinguish from each other in the same group operation section.

Claim 8 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the different colors are allocated in an order determined by brightness thereof to the top subgroup through the last subgroup in the same group operation section.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A mixing console apparatus comprising:
an input section that inputs a plurality of electric signals;
a processing section that processes the inputted electric signals;
an output section that outputs the processed electric signals; and
a plurality of operators being provided in correspondence to a plurality of circuit components contained in those of the input section, the processing section and the output section, and being assigned with various functions in correspondence to the respective circuit components, the operators being manually operable to act on the corresponding circuit components for controlling the electric signals, said plurality of operators being divided into groups and subgroups, wherein the plurality of the operators are grouped to form two or more of group operation sections such that operators having similar functions are grouped into the same group operation section,
wherein each group operation section is divided into a sequence of subgroups with color markings such that operators belonging to one subgroup is distinguished from operators belonging to another subgroup by the respective color markings, and
wherein the color markings have a predetermined order, such that the color markings are applied sequentially to the sequence of the subgroups in the same manner among the respective group operation sections according to the predetermined order.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the colors are applied sequentially to the sequence of the subgroups in the same manner among the respective group operation sections according to the predetermined order which is predetermined according to brightness of the colors.

Claim 12 (original): The mixing console apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined order of the colors is predetermined according to brightness of the colors such that a color having a higher brightness is applied to a first one of the subgroups in the sequence and another color having a lower brightness is applied to a last one of the subgroups in the sequence.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A mixing console apparatus comprising:
an input section that inputs a plurality of electric signals;
a processing section that processes the inputted electric signals;
an output section that outputs the processed electric signals;
a bus system connecting between the input section and the output section through the processing section; and

a plurality of operators being provided in correspondence to a plurality of circuit components of the processing section disposed on the bus system and being assigned with various functions in correspondence to the respective circuit components, the plurality of operators being manually operable to act on the corresponding circuit components for processing the electric signals, said plurality of operators being divided into groups and subgroups,

wherein the plurality of the operators are arranged to form a first group operation section and a second group operation section, such that operators corresponding to circuit components disposed on an input side of the bus system are grouped into the first group operation section and operators

corresponding to circuit component disposed on an output side of the bus system are grouped into the second group operation section,

wherein the first group operation section is divided into subgroups with color markings such that operators belonging to one subgroup is distinguished from operators belonging to another subgroup by the respective color markings, and the second group operation section is divided into subgroups in correspondence to the subgroups of the first group operation section with color markings such that operators belonging to one subgroup is distinguished from operators belonging to another subgroup by the respective color markings, and

wherein the subgroup of the first group operation section has the same marking as that of the corresponding subgroup of the second group operation section.

Claim 14 (canceled)